

HEROIN PROBLEM - NOT THAT SIMPLE

WRITING REQUIREMENT  
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## I. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

President Nixon stated in a message to Congress 17th of June 1971 that "Narcotics addictions is a problem which affects both the body and the soul of America...The threat of narcotics among our people is one which frightens many Americans. It comes quietly into homes and destroys children, it moves into neighborhoods and breaks the fiber of community."<sup>1</sup> Heroin is one of the greatest problems producing drug known to mankind.

It has been estimated that in the United States alone there are over 200,000 heroin addicts. Ten years ago it was estimated that there were 60,000 heroin addicts in the United States. In 1969 the number of addicts doubled from the previous year.<sup>2</sup>

In 1965 there were less than 50,000 arrests in the United States for heroin related offenses. In 1969 there were 233,690 such arrests. Twenty per cent of these arrests were in suburban areas where heroin problem had never existed before. During the last 10 years drug arrest trends for persons under 18 years of

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<sup>1</sup>Message From President Nixon to the Congress: "President Calls for Comprehensive Drug Control Program", Department of State Bulletin, July 1971, p. 65.

<sup>2</sup>Harvey R. Wellman, Drug Abuse: "A Challenge to US - Turkish Cooperation in the Seventies", Department of State Bulletin, April, 1971, p. 140.

age has increased 2,500 per cent. In New York City alone three persons die daily because of heroin related causes.<sup>3</sup>

The growing and spreading abuse of heroin and other dangerous drugs is causing death and suffering in the United States and many other countries. The United States is involved in a world solution to the heroin problem.

Heroin is a product of the gum substance from the opium poppy flower. This flower is not native to the United States. As reported to the United Nations in 1968, the world legal production of opium (exclusive of Communist China) was 993 tons. Of this India produced 752 tons, the U.S.S.R. 116 tons, and Turkey 122 tons. According to the best estimates, illicit production of opium totaled for the calendar year 1968 approximately 1,400 tons. Of this estimate 100 tons were produced in Turkey.<sup>4</sup> If there is to be a solution to the heroin problem it will have to be accomplished through international cooperation. It has been estimated that 70 to 90 per cent of the heroin sold on the illicit market in the United States originates or is grown in Turkey.

"Illicit Turkish opium is of particular importance to the United States because much of it ends up as heroin in the United States market. Other regions, notably the Burma-Thailand-Laos area, with an estimated illicit production of 700 metric tons, are much larger producers; but their production is largely consumed locally and until now has represented only about 10 per cent of the illicit traffic to the United States."<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>3</sup>Ibid., 141.

<sup>4</sup>Ibid., 144.

<sup>5</sup>Ibid.

Turkey is an important producer of opium, and the United States is an important consumer of illicit Turkish heroin. Turkey has no opium or heroin addiction problems. In Turkey cultivation of the opium poppy has been traditional from time immemorial.

..."It is hard for the Turkish Government and people to appreciate the death and suffering which come from use of and addiction to heroin. It is hard for the American Government and people to appreciate the difficulties of bringing Turkish opium production under effective control and preventing its diversion to illicit traffickers for processing into heroin and smuggling into the United States."<sup>6</sup>

#### PROFIT MOTIVE IN HEROIN

10 kilos of Opium Gum on the illegal market in Turkey approximately	\$ 438.00
10 kilos of Opium Gum convert into 1 kilo of Morphine approximately	\$ 950.00
1 kilo of Morphine is converted into 1 kilo of Heroin in France and sells for approximately	\$ 5,000.00
1 kilo of Heroin is sold to the Mafia in the USA for approximately	\$ 35,000.00
Mafia will split the Heroin into 1/4 kilos and sell them for approximately	\$ 12,000.00
	\$ <u>48,000.00</u>
1/4 kilos of Heroin cut and sold in 1 oz. bags for approximately	\$ 700.00
16% Heroin makes 45,056 bags, these bags are farther cut until they reach 5% pure heroin and sell on the N.Y. City black market for approximately	\$ 281,000.00

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<sup>6</sup>Ibid., 140.

## II. UNITED STATES EFFORTS TO CURTAIL THE INTERNATIONAL HEROIN PROBLEM

Heroin has no legal or medical use in the United States and is only sold here to drug abusers. The United States Government realizes all efforts at home to control the heroin problem will fail if there is not a world attack on the problem.

History has a long list of international efforts to control narcotics. President Theodore Roosevelt in 1909 initiated a meeting of 13 nations that were involved in international trafficking of narcotics and urged their cooperation in international efforts to stem the flow of illicit drugs. In 1912 the First Opium Conference met at the Hague and adopted the International Opium Convention, making production and distribution of opium to be limited to medical and science requirements. The League of Nations took over the responsibility for supervision of the former agreements that had been made with regard to the traffic in opium and other dangerous drugs. The Geneva Convention of 1925 established the first international organ with control power over narcotics.

After World War II the United Nations took over from the League of Nations the responsibility for overseeing the narcotic

control treaties. The 1953 Opium Protocol was the first international attempt directed at controlling the production of opium. Seventy-nine nations are now parties to the 1953 Opium Protocol. It is this treaty that the United States would like to see made effective.

### III. TURKISH PROBLEM IN CURTAILING THE DRUG FLOW

Turkey and the United States are both signers of the 1953 Opium Protocol.

Under a United Nations convention Turkey is one of the few nations permitted legally to grow poppies for export. Only about ten per cent of the world's opium is grown in Turkey. It has been estimated that eighty per cent of the heroin that enters the United States originates from the Turkish poppy fields.<sup>7</sup>

The United States had additionally pledged the Turkish Government \$15 million to compensate the Turkish farmers for loss of production and \$20 million to create alternate sources of income if they will refrain from opium poppy production. Under strong American persuasion, Turkey decided last year to ban all growing of poppies on August 31, 1972.<sup>8</sup>

Mr. Harold H. Saunders of the National Security Counsel Staff stated that the economic assistance to Turkey this year (1971) has been around \$40 million.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>7</sup>Nixon, Rodgers, & Meliah, "United States Hail Turkish Decision to Ban Opium Poppy Production", Department of State Bulletin, July, 1971, p. 75.

<sup>8</sup>Henry Kamm, "Turkish Farmers See Poverty in Ban on the Poppy", New York Times, October 3, 1972, p. 1.

<sup>9</sup>Nixon, Rodgers, & Meliah, "United States Hails Turkish Decision to Ban Opium Poppy Production", Department of State Bulletin, July, 1971, p. 77.



The annual per capita income in Turkey is \$350.00. The yearly income of a Turkish poppy farmer is not believed to exceed \$500.00. It is believed that a farmer would not produce in excess of 10 kilograms of opium to sell annually. At the 1971 price 10 kilograms of opium would bring \$128.00 at the legal price and \$357.00 when sold to a smuggler's agent.<sup>10</sup>

The delicate leaves of the young poppy plant makes a delicious salad. The seeds provide oil for the bulk of the fat in the Turkish diet. The husk of the seeds and other parts of the plant make feed for the cattle, bread, furniture, firewood and pharmaceuticals.

As of yet the Turkish poppy farmer states that no one has told them what they can produce or how they are to employ their time. The poppy crop has been handed down through many generations of Turkish farmers. It is the best crop that they have. The Turkish farmer feels that the United States Government is putting him in a very bad way.<sup>11</sup>

Since 1967 Turkey has reduced from 21 to 4 the number of provinces in which it is legal to grow the opium poppy. The Turkish Government recognizes that as long as opium production continues in Turkey that it has an obligation to purchase the entire crop. The Turkish Government has attempted to meet this

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<sup>10</sup> Henry Kamm, "Turkish Farmers See Poverty in Ban on the Poppy," New York Times, October 3, 1972, p. 1.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid., 12.

obligation by placing over 1,000 Turkish National police in the opium growing areas to deter smuggling.<sup>12</sup>

Despite greatly heightened surveillance by the Turkish Government over the last two years there has not been any reduction in the supply of Turkish opium.

With the two year old reduction in the number of provinces from 21 to 4 the illicit flow of opium out of Turkey has not suffered any shortage. The farmers have always sold approximately one third of their crop on the black market and they state that 1972 has not been an exception. Farmers continue to grow poppies in many of the regions where Turkish Government has already outlawed poppy cultivation.

Farmers often plant tall sunflowers facing the road, behind which the poppies grow as before. Although poppies growing are easily spotted from the air by plane, low flying is difficult and planes are scarce.<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>12</sup>Wellman, "A Challenge to U.S. - Turkish Cooperation," p. 145.

<sup>13</sup>Henry Kamm, "Turkish Ban on Poppy: Delayed Impact Seen," New York Times, October 10, 1972, p. 1.

#### IV. TURKISH-UNITED STATES INVOLVEMENT IN DRUG TRAFFIC

In Turkey the poppy farmer receives about \$45.00 for a kilogram of opium gum from the illegal dealer. The opium gum is converted in volume to morphine and heroin at a 10 to 1 ratio. Its price as heroin will increase on the European market to \$5,000 per kilo to a wholesale price in New York of \$35,000 per kilo to a retail price in New York of \$281,000.00 per kilo. In the illegal market the price of 1 kilo of raw opium will have increased 10,000 times between the Turkish farmer and the fix in New York City. The Turkish producer nor the Turkish Economy profit little if any from the illicit marketing of the opium. The huge profits go to the illegal processors.

As of yet the Turkish Government has not been able to establish effective controls of the illegal opium production. Approximately half of the opium produced in Turkey ends up in the illegal markets.<sup>14</sup> The Turkish Government is aware of this problem and that she has not lived up to the commitment she has made under international treaty.

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<sup>14</sup>Ibid., 14.

The United States recognizes that control of opium production and the elimination of illegal production and sale of opium in Turkey is an obligation only that the Turkish Government can control effectively.

Turkey and the United States are involved together in this international problem. Turkey is the producer and the United States is the consumer. Both harbor illicit traffickers. Both are parties to international treaties on narcotic control. They are also friends and allies, bound by solemn obligations of mutual assistance in defense and development.

With approval of the Turkish Government the United States has stationed professional narcotic agents in Turkey. They work closely with the Turkish control authorities to facilitate the exchange of information, experiences, and techniques.

Turkey and the United States have both worked together in and through the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs. Jointly they have urged and supported resolutions to control the production, manufacture, and exports of narcotic drugs.

V. OTHER NATIONS EFFORTS TO CONTROL  
THE DRUG PROBLEM

On September 28, 1971 Thailand signed a memorandum pledging their efforts to control and eliminate the flow of narcotics from and through Thailand with the United States.<sup>15</sup>

On September 23, 1971, the government of Laos made it unlawful to engage in the manufacture, trading, and transportation of opium and its derivatives including heroin.<sup>16</sup>

On August 6, 1971, French President Pompidou proposed to the other five members of the European Economic Community and the United Kingdom that they consider ways to combat narcotics trafficking.<sup>17</sup>

November 22nd to 25th, 1971 the Australian Government sponsored a conference of Southeast Asian countries for the purpose of improving narcotics controls on regional bases.<sup>18</sup>

President Thieu of the Republic of Viet Nam has encouraged tough antinarcotics laws to the South Viet Nam legislature.<sup>19</sup>

On August 11, 1971, the Deputy Attorney General of Mexico reported that 10,356 fields of opium poppy has been destroyed,

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<sup>15</sup>Nelson Gross, "International Narcotics Control Summary 1971", Department of State Bulletin, February 1972, p. 165.

<sup>16</sup>Ibid., 166.

<sup>17</sup>Ibid.

<sup>18</sup>Ibid.

<sup>19</sup>Ibid.

176 pounds of crude opium, 116 pounds of heroin and 319 pounds of cocaine has been seized.<sup>20</sup>

We must have international cooperation to effectively curb the heroin problem. The United States considers the heroin addiction problem of American citizens an international problem of grave concern.

President Nixon has proposed as an international goal, an end to opium production. Because opium is needed for medical purposes and it is a legitimate source of income in some countries the United States is pressing ahead with three programs. First, develop synthetic substitutes for opium derivatives. Second, assist countries in their effort to end illicit drug processing and trafficking and illegal opium production. Third, make national and international controls more effective.<sup>21</sup>

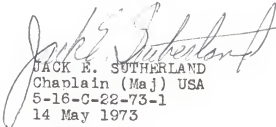
Because funds have not been immediately available in the United Nations the United States has given funds and earmarked them for immediate measures against drug abuse. The problem of drug abuse is the United States today but could be that of any country tomorrow.

Drug abuse is a continuing challenge to international relations.

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<sup>20</sup>Ibid.

<sup>21</sup>Harry R. Wellman, "Department Discusses International Aspects of President Nixon's Drug Control Program," Department of State Bulletin. August, 1971, p. 157.



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